

Green Acres Program  
P.O. Box 412  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0412  
[www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres](http://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres)  
Tel: (609) 984-0500  
Fax: (609) 984-0608

January 2006

Dear Nonprofit Organization:

It is my pleasure to extend this invitation to all interested and eligible tax exempt nonprofit organizations to apply for Green Acres funds. The Green Acres Program provides grants, on a 50% matching basis, to qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations for the acquisition and development of land for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. To maximize awareness of this opportunity, I ask that receipt of this letter be acknowledged on the agenda of your next regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Green Acres Program is committed to preserving New Jersey's natural resources statewide. Eligible land acquisition projects include the purchase of natural areas, historic sites, conservation areas, water bodies, and open space for active or passive recreation purposes. Funding is also available for the development of outdoor park and recreation facilities. Eligible recreational projects include facilities that provide boating, fishing, swimming, outdoor games and sports, biking, picnicking, camping, or nature interpretation. Related costs incurred as part of the acquisition or development project also may be eligible for reimbursement.

Green Acres accepts applications throughout the year, and normally batches all complete applications received by mid-February for consideration in our Spring funding round. **However, our application deadline for the next funding round has been extended until April 14, 2006.** Please be advised that the funding available from the Garden State Preservation Trust has been almost fully committed, so competition will be intense. There will be less than \$5 million available for distribution statewide. As a result, **Green Acres will only consider funding requests from new applicants or from applicants that have completed or are making significant progress on previously approved projects.**

As you consider applying for Green Acres funding, please be aware of the following:

- To qualify for grant consideration, the applicant must be a Charitable Conservancy for the purposes of P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.).
- Public access must be provided to every project funded under this program.
- The nonprofit may use as its matching share, its own funds or - for acquisition projects - a donation of all or a portion of the value of a project site.

- The nonprofit must agree not to sell, lease, exchange, or donate the lands acquired or developed with Green Acres funding, except to the State, or local government unit, another qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization, or the federal government for recreation and conservation purposes (and then only with the prior approval of Green Acres);
- The nonprofit must agree to execute and donate to the State, at no charge, a conservation restriction or historic preservation restriction, as the case may be, pursuant to P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.) on the lands to be acquired or developed utilizing the grant. Please be advised that the conservation restriction and historic preservation restriction referred to in the law will be written by Green Acres and the nonprofit to fit the needs of each project.
- The nonprofit may purchase land in fee simple or may acquire a perpetual conservation easement or historic preservation easement on the property, as long as meaningful public access is provided to the project area.
- Park development funding is available for projects located in Urban Aid municipalities (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-178), Densely Populated municipalities (population density of 5,000 per square mile), Highly Populated municipalities (total population over 35,000), or Densely Populated Counties (population density of 5,000 per square mile). Please contact our office for a list of Densely and Highly Populated municipalities and counties. To determine if your municipality qualifies as Urban Aid, please visit the Department of Community Affairs' web page at [www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/05\\_aid/ua\\_fy06\\_pub\\_notice.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/05_aid/ua_fy06_pub_notice.htm). Also, if you can demonstrate that the supermajority (at least two-thirds) of users of the proposed development project live in the above mentioned municipalities or counties, the development project also will be considered eligible for funding.
- Development projects must be located on land owned by the nonprofit or on which the nonprofit has an irrevocable lease or use agreement, approved by Green Acres, for a term of at least twenty-five years beginning at the time of project construction.

In light of the keen competition for funds this round, we will again need to establish funding caps per project or organization. Special consideration may be given to projects of special concern and extraordinary resource value. Organizations may submit more than one application, but must indicate their first priority.

Each nonprofit should review and consider the applicable Landscape Project maps and reports, developed by the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife, during the formulation of its open space preservation and planning goals, and as part of its preparation of a Green Acres application. Information about the Landscape Project can be found at [www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape](http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape) or by writing to the Division of Fish & Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400.

Further details about project eligibility, project ranking and selection, and proposal preparation are contained in the Green Acres application. Applications can be obtained by visiting our web page at [www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres](http://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres), returning the attached form, or calling us at (609) 984-0570. We encourage you to call our staff as soon as possible to begin discussions of your proposed project(s).

On behalf of *Green Acres*, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our program. We look forward to meeting with you soon to assist in the formulation of your acquisition or development proposal.

Sincerely,

John Flynn  
Administrator

**Download applications from [www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres](http://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres)**

Or, if you would like to receive a Green Acres application package by mail please complete the following:

**A Green Acres application package is requested on behalf of:**

*Name of Nonprofit* \_\_\_\_\_

*Location of Proposed Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *(Municipality)* \_\_\_\_\_ *(County)*

*Date of Request* \_\_\_\_\_

**Application package should be forwarded to: (please print)**

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Title* \_\_\_\_\_

*Agency* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number* \_\_\_\_\_ *Fax number* \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail address* \_\_\_\_\_

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